



FIRE MOBILIZATION NEWS FROM THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

State Emergency Operations Center
Camp Murray, Washington



For immediate release

Contact: Trooper Greg Pressel, Washington State Patrol,
253-912-4936 or 360-280-8816

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Rob Harper, Washington Emergency Management Division,
800-688-8955

Update: Beebe Fire in Douglas County

CAMP MURRAY – Firefighters from Grant and Walla Walla counties continue to assist local firefighters working to contain the Beebe Fire, approximately four miles east of Chelan in Douglas County. Fire activity increased overnight with high winds and dry fuels. With the change in complexity in the fire a Type 2 team has been dispatched to the scene and is anticipated to arrive early this evening.

A total of 219 firefighters, 28 engines/tenders, 6 20-person hand crews, 2 helicopters, and 2 dozers are involved in fighting the fire. These firefighters and apparatus will complement the firefighters and engines/tenders from the local jurisdictions.

The fire has burned approximately 3,300 acres and is threatening 50 residences where a Level 2 voluntary evacuation is in effect. The Red Cross has established a shelter at the Orondo School.

The Washington State Fire Mobilization Act was declared on July 4, 2004, at 5:45 p.m. by Chief Lowell Porter, and implemented by the Fire Protection Bureau of the Washington State Patrol at the request of the local fire service. Support from the state's Emergency Management Division at the State Emergency Operations Center at Camp Murray.

Creating a defensible space around your home is a must for residents living in a potential wild land fire area. The following are the 10 steps to defensible space:

- Thin tree and brush cover.
- Dispose of slash and debris left from thinning.
- Remove dead limbs, leaves and other litter.
- Stack firewood away from home.
- Maintain irrigated green belt around the home.
- Mow dry grasses and weeds.
- Prune branches to 10 feet above the ground.
- Trim branches.
- Clean roof and gutters.
- Reduce density of surrounding forest.

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